

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 06401 300058Z

64

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 EB-11 NIC-01 DRC-01 /129 W

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R 292305Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2996

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MEXICO 6401

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CU, MX

SUBJ: REPORTED TELEPHONE CALL ECHEVERRIA AND CASTRO

1. SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT FOR EXCELSIOR, CITING A HIGH MEXICAN OFFICIAL, REPORTED A JULY 27 TELEPHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA IN CARACAS AND FIDEL CASTRO. THE LATTER IS SAID TO HAVE THANKED LEA FOR HIS OPPOSITION TO THE "BLOCKADE". CASTRO ALSO REPORTEDLY PROPOSED AN INTERVIEW WITH ECHEVERRIA DURING THE LATTER'S VISIT TO JAMAICA ON JULY 29-30. LEA REPLIED THAT HE WOULD GO TO CUBA SOON BUT TURNED DOWN THE JAMAICA INTERVIEW. CURRENT RUMOR IS THAT ECHEVERRIA WILL VISIT CUBA IN LATE SEPTEMBER.

2. COMMENT: IT NOW SEEMS VIRTUALLY CERTAIN THAT ECHEVERRIA WILL VISIT CUBA WITHIN THE NEAR FUTURE. HE WILL NO DOUBT WISH TO MAKE THE MOST OF SUCH A VISIT AND GARNER WHAT PROFIT HE MAY ENVISAGE IN HIS GOVERNMENT'S STANDING WITHIN THIRD WORLD -- AND MEXICAN "PROGRESSIVE" -- CIRCLES. AN ABBREVIATED INTERVIEW IN JAMAICA WOULD LIKELY REDUCE THE IMPACT OF THE GESTURE HE APPARENTLY HAS IN MIND, TO ASSERT GRANDLY HIS INDEPENDENCE OF THE U.S., BASK IN THE APPLAUSE OF THE CUBAN MASSES, AND SHOW THAT MEXICO WAS RIGHT ALL ALONG IN ITS CUBAN POLICY.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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To: STATE
Type: TE
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